

Minutes

Youth Council Meeting

Georgia Mountains Workforce Development
April 24, 2012 ~ North Georgia Technical College –Dining Hall Annex,
Clarkesville, GA

The Georgia Mountains Workforce Development Youth Council met on Tuesday, April 24, 2012 at North Georgia Technical College –Dining Hall Annex, in Clarkesville, GA. All those present registered on a sign in sheet.

Members

Joan Hughes
Scott Crain
Bonnie Loffredo
Shelby Ward
Clark Willingham
Tina Pratt
Angela Hanes
Chuck Graham
Chavelia Ruff
Brenda Dalin

Staff

Jessica Williams
John Phillips
Danielle Avelar
Nona Turk
Ebony Tucker

Chairman, Clark Willingham, called meeting to order and welcomed attendees.

Mr. Willingham introduced Ebony Tucker, Youth Services Case Manager to provide the council with an update on the 2012 Summer Youth Employment Program. Ms. Tucker reported:

- April 14, 2012 Toccoa Orientation 27 youth attended
- April 22, 2012 Dawsonville Orientation 40 youth attended
- Total applications received and processed 231
- 142 Eligible participants
- Total of 77 worksites

Mr. Willingham introduced Jessica Williams, Youth Services Supervisor who went over barriers and eligibility for youth to receive services from Workforce Development.

Youth must:

- Be between 14-21 years old
- Reside in one of our 13 county region
- Part of a family that falls within Federal Income Guidelines
- Have a barrier to employment

Mrs. Williams explained the barriers to employment;

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- Basic skills deficient – reading & math below 8th grade
- IEP- or any other documented disability
- Homeless
- Foster or Emancipated youth
- Runaway
- Pregnant or Parenting
- Offender
- Behind in school
- Drop-out

Mrs. Williams explained, that in reviewing files for the summer program, staff pointed out that there were several youth that may have benefitted from being in the program, but because they did not have one of the above barriers, they were not eligible for WIA services. Mrs. Williams informed council that staff has come up with ideas to address this issue and it would be discussed in detail later in the meeting.

Mrs. Williams also informed the group that we will be working on expanding and having more youth in all 13 counties. She said that the current programs are growing and she is always looking for new ideas and asked the group that if they knew of any other resources for youth or recruiting youth to e-mail her with that information.

Ms. Angela Hanes asked if the youth services program has been involved with LCCA in Hall County. Danielle Avelar, Youth Case Manager, stated that we have youth that attend LCCA for credit recovery. Ms. Hanes explained that there is a large population of teen moms that attend school there and would qualify for services.

Clark opened the floor for new business.

Nona Turk, Billing Specialist went over the youth budget. There is over \$200,000 that needs to be spent on youth services before June 2012 and approximately \$800,000 that will need to be spent on youth services before June 2013.

John Phillips, Director explained to the group that he would like to see youth in our area served and not have these funds reallocated to another area. Mr. Phillips requested that if the council had ideas of new program ideas for their area to let Mrs. Williams know.

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Mr. Phillips also announced that Workforce Development will no longer be overseen by the Department of Labor on the state level. As of July 1, 2012 Workforce Development will be overseen by the Governor's Office.

Ms. Angela Hanes asked what type of things the funds can be used for. Mrs. Williams explained that there are federal guidelines and certain requirements that have to be met in order to justify spending. Mrs. Williams offered to send information and resources explaining the 10 elements that youth programs have to cover so that the council can see what type of programs workforce development can assist with.

Mrs. Williams gave the floor back to Danielle Avelar to go into more detail about youth barriers. Mrs. Avelar explained to the group that there has been a number of youth that really needed WIA services but were not able to be served due to not having a qualifying barrier. She introduced the idea of the council approving a new barrier to employment. Some ideas for the new barriers are:

- Youth being raised by grandparents
- Youth in single parent homes
- Youth with parent in military
- Youth with an offender parent
- Youth with 1 or both parents that has been unemployed for an extended period of time.

Mrs. Avelar explained that these categories are broad and need to have supporting criteria. All barriers require documentation and justification for services. She went on to say that these are just ideas and that if the council had ideas on any other barriers to share that information, because they know what the needs are in their areas.

Joan Hughes asked what the process was for getting another barrier approved. Mrs. Williams answered by saying that first ideas for new barriers will be given to the youth staff, these ideas will be presented to the youth council and researched by the council, then it will be passed to the Workforce Development Board for approval.

Clark asked the group for a motion to move forward for researching and beginning the process in adding another barrier. Motion was given by Brenda Dalin. Seconded was given by Shelby Ward. All attendees were in favor. Motion passed.

Mrs. Williams asked the group to look over the incentive section of the youth work statement. The guideline for participants to receive \$50 per credit earned toward

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graduation had been added. This incentive is only for youth enrolled in a credit recovery program.

The next meeting date has not been determined, but will be held in Dawson Co.

Motion to adjourn the meeting was given by Chevalier Ruff and seconded by Tina Pratt. All were in favor to adjourn the meeting.

Recorders Signature: *Ebony Tucker* Date: *4/25/12*